

Victimization: Age and Recession Proof

Written by Debbie Booth and Kory Meacham, DAAS
Tuesday, 11 October 2011 00:00

No one knows for sure how many vulnerable adults become victims of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation each year. National Statistics estimate that only one in 10 cases are reported to Adult Protective Services or law enforcement.

The current Utah numbers are staggering:

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3,351 cases were referred to Utah Adult Protective Services in 2010

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Approximately 37% of the cases involved financial exploitation

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Abuse was a factor in 36% of the cases

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Self- or caregiver neglect accounted for over 27% of the cases

Utah law mandates that any person who has reason to believe a vulnerable adult is being abused, neglected or exploited, should immediately notify Adult Protective Services or local law enforcement.

Vulnerable adults are often too afraid or intimidated to report abuse, neglect or exploitation and have expressed concerns about getting others "in trouble," or losing their support system.

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Contacting Adult Protective Services is not only a great way to protect Utahns, it is also a great way to connect people to resources and support systems in their community.

You can help! Take time to notice the signs of abuse, neglect or exploitation. If you have reason to believe that a vulnerable adult is being abused, neglected or exploited, immediately notify Adult Protective Services or local law enforcement.

For more information about signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation go to:
www.hsdaas.utah.gov. To make a referral, call 1-800-371-7897 or go online, www.hsdaas.utah.gov/ap_referral.htm

Adult Protective Services has moved and is now located at **201 East 500 North** in **Richfield**.

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Matthew Lyman (Region Director, 435-896-1212) and Kory Meacham (Licensed Clinical Therapist, 435-896-1211) continue to work in the six-county area to investigate and resolve allegations of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of vulnerable adults.